

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 11-14, 17, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 35, 37, 40, 41 and 43 as follows.

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1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not  
an output requested image includes information indicating a judgment object image; and  
determination means for determining the predetermined area for each  
predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image,

wherein the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the  
information indicating the judgment object image.

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2. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said the judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities,  
~~and the like, which is~~ or other images that are prohibited by law from being printed.

3. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible  
digital watermark.

4. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

5. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically embedded in the judgment object image, and the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the information indicating the judgment object image.

6. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined area is an area necessary for judgment of the judgment object image.

*as*  
7. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said the output requested image is judged for said each predetermined distance, the predetermined distance is determined in such a manner that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.

8. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when there are a plurality of judgment images, the determination means determines a minimum distance among the predetermined distances for said plurality of judgment object images as the predetermined distance.

9. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined distance is determined also by considering that said judgment object image rotates.

10. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is judged as a result of said judgment that the judgment object image is included, any one of a processing of discontinuing output of the output requested image, a processing of changing the output requested image to another image and outputting the image, and a processing of informing that the output is impossible is performed.

11. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising steps of:

judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

*as*  
determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image,

wherein the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the information indicating the judgment object image.

12. (Currently amended) A storage medium which stores a program for executing steps of:

judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the information indicating the judgment object image.

13. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not  
an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a  
judgment object image; and

determination means for determining the predetermined area for each  
predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the  
information indicating the judgment object image.

*as*  
14. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to  
claim 13, wherein said the judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities,  
~~and the like, which is or other images that are~~ prohibited by law from being printed.

15. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13,  
wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible  
digital watermark.

16. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13,  
wherein said judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

17. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to  
claim 13, wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically  
embedded in the judgment object image, ~~and the predetermined area is an area including at~~

least one piece of the information indicating that the output requested image is said judgment object image.

18. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said predetermined area is an area necessary for judgment of said judgment object image.

19. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to  
claim 13, wherein when said the output requested image is judged for the each predetermined distance, the predetermined distance is determined in such a manner that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.  
*as*

20. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when there are a plurality of judgment object images, the determination means determines a minimum distance among the predetermined distances for the plurality of judgment object images as the predetermined distance.

21. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said predetermined distance is determined also by considering that the judgment object image rotates.

22. (Currently amended) The An image processing apparatus according to claim 13 comprising:

judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not  
an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a  
judgment object image; and

determination means for determining the predetermined area for each  
predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein said the band is set in such a manner that the predetermined area  
does not form a boundary of the band.

*as*  
23. (Currently amended) The An image processing apparatus according  
to claim 13 comprising:

judgment means for judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not  
an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a  
judgment object image; and

determination means for determining the predetermined area for each  
predetermined distance with respect to said output requested image,

wherein a width of the band can be changed in the output requested image,  
and the band width is set in such a manner that the predetermined area does not form a  
boundary of said the band.

24. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 23,  
wherein said band width is set by judging whether said predetermined area does not  
overlap the band boundary.

25. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when it is judged as a result of said judgment that the judgment object image is included, any one of a processing of discontinuing output of the output requested image, a processing of changing the output requested image to another image and outputting the image, and a processing of informing that the output is impossible is performed.

26. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising steps of:

*as*  
judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image,

wherein the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the information indicating the judgment object image.

27. (Currently amended) A storage medium which stores a program for executing steps of:

judging for each of predetermined areas whether or not an output requested image supplied by a unit of a band includes information indicating a judgment object image; and

determining the predetermined area for each predetermined distance with respect to the output requested image,

wherein the predetermined area is an area including at least one of the  
information indicating the judgment object image.

28. (Original) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
judgment means for judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and  
judgment means for, when as a result of judgment by said judgment means  
the drawing data is said image data, judging whether or not the image data includes  
information indicating a judgment object image.

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29. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to  
claim 28, wherein said the judgment object image is an image of paper money, securities,  
~~and the like, which is~~ or other images that are prohibited by law from being printed.

30. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28,  
wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is a visible or invisible  
digital watermark.

31. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28,  
wherein said judgment means is executed by a printer driver.

32. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28,  
wherein the information indicating the judgment object image is periodically embedded in

the judgment object image, and the predetermined area is an area including at least one piece of the information indicating the judgment object image.

33. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein when said image data comprises an image with a small number of colors, said judgment means does not perform the judgment.

34. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein when as the result of the judgment by said judgment means the drawing data is not the image data, said judgment means does not perform the judgment.

35. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein when it is judged as said judgment result that the judgment object image is included, any one of a processing of discontinuing output of said an output requested image, a processing of changing the output requested image to another image and outputting the image, and a processing of informing that the output is impossible is performed.

36. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said judgment is performed for each predetermined area of the image data, and the predetermined area is determined for each predetermined distance of the image data.

37. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein when the image data is judged for ~~the~~ each predetermined area, the predetermined distance is determined in such a manner that the predetermined area is necessarily once set in the judgment object image.

38. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein when there are a plurality of judgment object images, a minimum distance among the predetermined distances for the plurality of judgment object images is determined as the predetermined distance.

39. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said predetermined distance is determined also by considering that the judgment object image rotates.

40. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said image data is judged for ~~each~~ per band, and the band is set in such a manner that ~~the~~ a predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

41. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said image data is judged for ~~each~~ per band, a width of the band can be changed in ~~the~~ an output requested image, and the band width is set in such a manner that ~~the~~ a predetermined area does not form a boundary of the band.

42. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said band width is set by judging whether the predetermined area does not overlap the band boundary.

43. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said judgment is performed after the image data constituting the a band is synthesized.

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cont'd*  
44. (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein when said synthesized image data is smaller than the judgment object image, said judgment is not performed.

45. (Original) An image processing method comprising steps of:  
judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and  
when as a result of judgment the drawing data is said image data, judging  
whether or not said image data includes information indicating a judgment object image.

46. (Original) A storage medium which stores a program for executing  
steps of:  
judging whether or not drawing data is image data; and  
when as a result of judgment the drawing data is said image data, judging  
whether or not said image data includes information indicating a judgment object image.